(iv) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) at the rate of 4% of the FOB value of export of sugar has been allowed.

(v) The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 has been amended in order, *inter alia*, to utilize the Sugar Development Fund for defraying expenditure on internal transport charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar.

3. During the financial year 2002-2003, the exports of sugar have amounted to approximately 14.70 lakh tonnes.

Unspent money with missions

*345. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its latest report on India's diplomatic missions abroad has criticised the practice of missions keeping unspent money for long with them;

(b) the number of missions which have been found doing so; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that this practice is discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its latest report has commented upon retention of funds by various missions in excess of the prescribed requirement of six weeks.

There are 27 missions, which figure in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ending 31.3.2002.

The Ministry has been issuing instructions to Indian missions/posts abroad reiterating the need to manage their cash requirements in such a way that at no time their cash balance exceeds six weeks' requirements. Heads of missions/posts have been clearly instructed to streamline the internal financial control and meticulously plan their monthly requirements in order to avoid holding of funds in excess of the prescribed requirements. Instructions have been reiterated *vide* Circular Letter No. Q/FE/755/1/2002 dated 2.6.2003

Occasionally, certain missions are compelled to retain excess funds for brief periods due to unforeseen circumstances.

China's refusal to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory

*346. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese Government has refused to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the context in which the refusal was communicated to India;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government's viewpoint has been communicated to the Chinese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The resolution of the boundary question between India and China is outstanding. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) to (e) The State of Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. This position has been consistently and categorically conveyed to China.

Disparity in minimum wage

*347. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any disparity in rates of minimum wage in various regions of the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for variation from region to region; and